

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 IO-12 DPW-01 AID-20 OPR-02 RSR-01 /140 W
----- 009523

O R 231110 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3744

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL UDORN

USDEL JEC PARIS

USIA WASHDC

SECDEF

USDAO SAIGON

DIRNSA FT GG MEADE MD

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC HAWAII

COMUSMACTHAI

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

CDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN

DODSPECREP BANGKOK

DODSPECREP NKP

CHSPECATS BANGKOK

7 ACCS KORAT

56 SOW NKP

432 TRW UDORN

CDR JCRC NKP

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8 TFW UBON
ARMA/ AIRA VTN LAOS
ARMA/ AIRA SVKT LAOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3113

CINCPAC FOR POLAD; 13 AF ADVON, 432 TRW, 56 SOW AND 8 TFW FOR
DO/ DI; MACTHAI FOR J2 AND PAO

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA
SUBJECT: LAO SITUATION REPORT - APRIL 23

REF: VIENTIANE 3089

BEGIN SUMMARY: MILITARY - GROUND ACTIVITY INCREASED SOMEWHAT
DURING TWO- DAY PERIOD 20-22 APRIL. TWO MAJOR INCIDENTS OCCURRED
IN AREA OF CONTINUING CONFLICT NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE AND IN
FAR NORTHWEST, WHEN ENEMY OVERRAN THREE MILITIA POSITIONS.
ELSEWHERE, THERE WERE 12 SCATTERED MINOR CLASH/ SHELLING INCI-
DENTS, INCLUDING SAPPER ATTACK WHICH HEAVILY DAMAGED ROUTE 13
BRIDGE MIDWAY BETWEEN VIENTIANE AND PAKSANE. RLAF FLEW 18 T-28
AND 2 AC-47 GUNSHIP SORTIES. POLITICAL - RLG NEGOTIATOR GIVES
INTERVIEW CONCERNING PROGRESS IN TALKS. PRESS ANNOUNCES LIFTING
OF VIENTIANE CURFEW. LPF DEL MET GRUNK PRIME MINISTER IN
PEKING. END SUMMARY.

1. SECTION I - CEASEFIRE OBSERVANCE

A. MR I: ONLY ACTION IN REGION WAS MAJOR ENEMY ATTACK IN FAR
NORTHWEST, SOME 30 KM NORTHWEST OF XIENG LON AND 50 KM SOUTHEAST
OF BAN HOU EI SAI, WEST OF MEKONG RIVER. EVENING 20 APRIL (1050 Z),
ESTIMATED 150 PATHET LAO, SUPPORTED BY MORTAR FIRE, ATTACKED AND
OVERRAN THREE MILITIA POSITIONS AT PB 661-904 /650-930/656-980
AND SPORADICALLY SHELLED FRIENDS AS THEY ATTEMPTED TO REGROUP.
FRIENDS WITHDREW IN MODERATE DISARRAY WITH INITIAL CASUALTIES
OF 3 WIA AND 40 MIA. RLAF FLEW 12 T-28 SORTIES ON 20 AND 21
APRIL, ALL AGAINST ENEMY TROOPS IN FOREGOING AREA, WITH NO
VISIBLE RESULTS.

B. MR II: NO GROUND OR AIR ACTION REPORTED. CASUALTY UPDATE FROM
LATEST ACTIONS IN THA VIANG AREA: 23 FRIENDS KIA/ MIA; 29 WIA) .
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C. MR III: THERE WERE 4 MINOR INCIDENTS BUT NO AIR ACTIVITY REPORTED. ENEMY ATTACKED AND FORCED WITHDRAWAL OF LOCAL DEFENSE UNIT FROM POSITION APPROX 17 KM NORTH OF SENO ON 20 APRIL (1 FRIEND KIA, 7 WIA; 2 ENEMY KIA). THERE WERE 3 SMALL CLASHES ON 19 AND 21 APRIL APPROX 30 KM SOUTH AND 30-35 KM EAST/ SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK (NO CASUALTIES).

D. MR IV: TERRAIN/ POPULATION CONTEST CONTINUED NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE. THERE WERE 2 MINOR PATROL CLASHES APPROX 28 KM NORTHEAST OF THE TOWN ON 20 AND 21 APRIL (NO CASUALTIES). ONE MAJOR INCIDENT OCCURRED EVENING 21 APRIL (1220 Z), WHEN ESTIMATED TWO ENEMY PLATOONS, SUPPORTED BY 60 ROUNDS MORTAR FIRE, ATTACKED FRIENDLY PLATOON SOME 29 KM NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE AT XC 114-386 (2 FRIENDS WIA, ESTIMATED 5 ENEMY KIA AND 10 WIA). ELSEWHERE, THERE WERE 2 MINOR CLASHES JUST SOUTHEAST AND WELL SOUTH OF SOUKHOUMA ON 20 AND 21 APRIL (ONE FRIEND KIA, 2 WIA). ONE MINOR PATROL CLASH OCCURRED JUST NORTH OF SOUVANNAKHILI, WELL SOUTH OF KHONG SEDONE, ON 21 APRIL; SUBSEQUENT MINE INCIDENT KILLED ONE FRIEND AND WOUNDED TWO. RLAF FLEW NO T-28 SORTIES AND 2 AC-47 GUNSHIP SORTIES; LATTER WERE IN SUPPORT OF TROOPS NORTH-EAST OF KHONG SEDONE NIGHT 21 APRIL.

E. MR V: ON 20 APRIL, UNKNOWN- SIZE ENEMY FORCE HEAVILY DAMAGED NAM LO/ ROUTE 13 BRIDGE MIDWAY BETWEEN VIENTIANE AND PAKSANE AT UF 244-390 (ONE CIVILIAN WIA, ONE CIVILIAN MIA). THERE WERE TWO OTHER MINOR INCIDENTS, BOTH IN BORKHANE AREA ON 21 APRIL. ONE CLASH OCCURRED 20 KM NORTH OF THE TOWN (NO CASUALTIES, 2 AK-47'S CAPTURED). ENEMY ATTACKED AND DISPERSED FRIENDLY ELEMENTS OPERATING SOME 15 KM NORTHWEST OF BORIKHANE (CASUALTIES UNKNOWN). RLAF FLEW 6 T-28 SORTIES, ALL AGAINST ENEMY TROOPS IN BORIKHANE AREA ON 21 APRIL, WITH NO VISIBLE RESULTS.

F. COUNT OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS: RLG DEFMIN ANNOUNCED FOUR ADDITIONAL ENEMY CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, BRINGING TOTAL TO 414 AS OF MORNING 20 APRIL. (COMMENT: OUR COUNT OF GROUND CONTACTS INITIATED BY BOTH SIDES SHOWS 102 MAJOR AND 548 MINOR INCIDENTS THROUGH 19 APRIL. END COMMENT)

2. SECTION II - POLITICAL SITUATION

A. XAT LAO HAS REPORTED APRIL 21 INTERVIEW WITH RLG NEGOTIATOR NGON SANANIKONE IN WHICH LATTER STATED THAT TWO SIDES HAVE AGREED
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TO SUSPEND LARGER NEGOTIATING SESSIONS IN ORDER, HE SAID, TO MOVE MORE QUICKLY IN THE RESTRICTED SESSIONS. NGON SAID THAT EACH SIDE SUBMITS RESULTS OF NEGOTIATING MEETINGS TO HIGHER AUTHORITY AND THAT, ON RLG SIDE AT LEAST, ALL DECISIONS WILL HAVE CABINET

APPROVAL PRIOR TO BEING IMPLEMENTED. NGON ALSO CONFIRMED THAT THERE IS AGREEMENT ON SOME POINTS REGARDING FORMATION OF THE CONSULTATIVE POLITICAL COUNCIL BUT THAT DIFFERENCES STILL EXIST CONCERNING THE POST OF VICE PRIME MINISTER AND THE DIVISION OF PORTFOLIOS. ON MILITARY SIDE, NGON ADDED, " SOME PROGRESS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED".

B. LOCAL PRESS HAS CONFIRMED THAT GENERAL KOUPRASITH COMPLETELY REMOVED VIENTIANE CURFEW EFFECTIVE APRIL 20.

C. NCNA REPORTED THAT TOURING LPF DELEGATION, LED BY NOUHAK PHOUMSAVAN, MET WITH GRUNK " PRIME MINISTER" SAMDECH PENN NOUTH ON APRIL 19 IN PEKING.

DEAN

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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